

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 9, and 17 as follows:

1. (currently amended) An article of footwear comprising:

a sole having a front portion and a rear portion;

an insole having a front portion and a rear portion, with the front portion of the insole connected to the front portion of the sole, and with the rear portion of the insole spaced apart from the rear portion of the sole and forming a space therebetween;

a heel connected directly to and positioned between the rear portions of the insole and the sole, the heel having a height greater than the thickness of the insole, with the heel being composed of a substantially solid material throughout which substantially fills the entire space between the rear portions of the insole and the sole rearward of a junction of the front portions of the insole and the sole; and

a cushion positioned on [[a]] the rear portion of the insole above the heel.

2. (original) The article of footwear of claim 1, further comprising:

a strap for removably securing at least the insole to the foot of a wearer.

3. (original) The article of footwear of claim 2, further comprising:

a fastener for removably attaching a portion of the strap to the insole.

4. (original) The article of footwear of claim 3, wherein the fastener is a hook-and-loop fastener.

5. (original) The article of footwear of claim 1, wherein the solid material of the heel is hardened plastic.

6. (original) The article of footwear of claim 1, wherein the heel includes:
  - a bottom portion of a first predetermined width; and
  - a middle portion positioned vertically above the bottom portion and having a second predetermined width less than the first predetermined width.
7. (original) The article of footwear of claim 1, wherein the heel includes:
  - an aperture passing through the heel and extending from one lateral side to the other lateral side of the heel.
8. (original) The article of footwear of claim 1, further comprising:
  - a logo attached to a lateral side of the heel.
9. (currently amended) An article of footwear comprising:
  - a sole having a front portion and a rear portion;
  - a heel positioned over the rear portion of the sole, with the heel composed of a substantially solid material;
  - an insole having a front portion and a rear portion, with the rear portion connected directly to and positioned upon the heel with the heel substantially filling a space formed between the rear portions of the insole and the sole rearward of a junction of the front portions of insole and the sole, and with the front portion of the insole connected directly to and positioned upon the front portion of the sole; and
  - a cushion positioned on [[a]] the rear portion of the insole above only the heel;

wherein the heel has a height greater than the thickness of the insole.

10. (original) The article of footwear of claim 9, further comprising:  
a strap, attached to the insole, for removably securing at least the insole to the foot  
of a wearer.

11. (original) The article of footwear of claim 10, further comprising:  
a fastener for removably attaching a portion of the strap to the insole.

12. (original) The article of footwear of claim 11, wherein the fastener is a hook-and-loop fastener.

13. (original) The article of footwear of claim 9, wherein the solid material of the  
heel is hardened plastic.

14. (original) The article of footwear of claim 9, wherein the heel includes:  
a bottom portion of a first predetermined width; and  
a middle portion positioned vertically above the bottom portion and having a  
second predetermined width less than the first predetermined width.

15. (original) The article of footwear of claim 9, wherein the heel includes:  
an aperture passing through the heel and extending from one lateral side to the  
other lateral side of the heel.

16. (original) The article of footwear of claim 9, further comprising:  
a logo attached to a lateral side of the heel.

17. (currently amended) An article of footwear comprising:  
a sole having a front portion and a rear portion;  
a heel positioned over the rear portion of the sole, with the heel composed of a solid material;  
an insole having a front portion and a rear portion, with the rear portion of the insole connected directly to and positioned upon the heel and with the front portion of the insole positioned upon the front portion of the sole, with the heel filling a space formed between the rear portions of the insole and the sole rearward of a junction of the front portions of the insole and the sole;  
a cushion positioned on [[a]] the rear portion of the insole above only the heel;  
and  
a strap, attached to the insole, for removably securing at least the insole to the foot of a wearer;  
wherein the heel has a height greater than the thickness of the insole.

18. (original) The article of footwear of claim 17, further comprising:  
a fastener for removably attaching a portion of the strap to the insole.

19. (original) The article of footwear of claim 18, wherein the fastener is a hook-and-loop fastener.
20. (original) The article of footwear of claim 17, wherein the heel is composed of hardened plastic.
21. (original) The article of footwear of claim 1, wherein the cushion extends along at least a portion of a peripheral edge of the insole.
22. (original) The article of footwear of claim 21, further comprising:  
a retaining device for retaining at least a portion of the foot substantially adjacent to the insole.